



## BLOCKADERS CLASH WITH POLICE 2 BNP men shot dead in Noakhali

### Torching vehicles continues in city, elsewhere

STAR REPORT

At least two people were killed, scores injured, and as many as 20 vehicles torched and some more vandalised on the second day of the nonstop countrywide blockade enforced by the BNP and its allies.

Blockaders clashed with police and pro-government activists, and exploded crude bombs in several districts yesterday, resulting in the arrest of dozens of BNP-Jamaat men.

The disruption in road communication across the country continued for the third consecutive day.

Train and launch services, however, were normal, like on Tuesday.

On Monday, BNP Chairperson Khaleda

Zia, confined to her Gulshan office since Saturday night, called for the blockade after she was barred from attending a rally to observe "Democracy Killing Day" on the first anniversary of January 5 polls that her party had boycotted.

Meanwhile, the BNP-led alliance has called hartals in Noakhali, Jessore, Sylhet and Barisal districts for today, protesting Khaleda's confinement and killings and arrests of its leaders and activists.

#### NOAKHALI

Two pro-BNP men were killed, at least 20 more injured, five motorbikes torched, and five battery-run auto rickshaws and a bank office vandalised as the district saw the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Prohibit publicising Tarique's statements

### HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to immediately take steps to stop publicising BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman's statements in the print, electronic and social media as long as he remains a fugitive.

In response to a writ petition, the court asked the foreign secretary to inform it in a month on what legal ground Tarique was staying abroad.

The HC also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## Terror attack kills 12 at Paris weekly

### Raising Islamist slogans, gunmen storm office of the satirical magazine; editor, 3 cartoonists among dead



Stephane Charbonnier



Georges Wolinsky



Jean Cabut



Bernard Verlhac



Bernard Maris

AFP, Paris

Heavily armed men shouting "Allahu akbar" stormed the Paris headquarters of a satirical weekly yesterday, killing 12 people in an attack that brought more than 100,000 protesters onto streets across France.

The assault on the Charlie Hebdo headquarters, the worst attack in France in decades, sparked a massive manhunt as the two gunmen in black commando gear escaped, executing a wounded police officer with a shot to the head.

The men remained on the run late yesterday, with few clues on their whereabouts and parts of the French capital in lockdown.

The attack sparked global outrage and demonstrations of solidarity in several cities across Europe.

Many protesters in France carried banners reading: "I am Charlie" and the hashtag #JeSuisCharlie was trending worldwide including in Arabic.

French President Francois Hollande called the attack "an act of exceptional barbarity" and "undoubtedly a terrorist attack." He called for a day of national mourning today and said flags would fly at half-mast.

Charlie Hebdo gained notoriety in February 2006 when it



Armed gunmen face police officers near the offices of the French weekly Charlie Hebdo in Paris yesterday, during an attack on the offices of the magazine. PHOTO: AFP

reprinted cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) that had originally appeared in Danish daily Jyllands-Posten, causing fury across the Muslim world.

The killers screamed "we have avenged the prophet, we have killed Charlie Hebdo" according to prosecutors.

Editor-in-chief of Charlie Hebdo Stephane Charbonnier, known as Chab and who had lived under police protection after receiving death threats, was among the victims.

Others included Jean Cabut, known across France as Cabu; Georges Wolinsky; and Bernard Verlhac, better known as Tignous. Also shot dead was popular economist Bernard Maris, 68, not a cartoonist but well-known for his Charlie Hebdo editorials and national radio commentaries.

The drama began in broad daylight in a quiet Paris street when the masked gunmen stormed into the weekly's offices as the journalists were in an editorial meeting, first shooting a receptionist.

They picked off eight journalists, including some of France's best-known cartoonists, a security guard and a visitor. One person survived by hiding under a table

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1  
MORE ON PAGE 8

## Fast track projects see mixed progress

<b>PADMA BRIDGE</b>	<b>ROOPPUR NUKE POWER</b>	<b>DHAKA METRO RAIL</b>
<b>PROGRESS: EXCELLENT (16%)</b> Contracts for all components of the bridge awarded, work in progress at site; to be completed in 2018	<b>PROGRESS: GOOD</b> The initial phase and techno-feasibility work progressing as per schedule; but total project cost of the 2000MW plant still unclear	<b>PROGRESS: GOOD</b> After securing Japanese financing, govt almost completed various processes and is set to float tender this month for its construction by 2020

<b>DEEP-SEA PORT</b>	<b>RAMPAL COAL POWER PLANT</b>	<b>LNG TERMINAL</b>
<b>PROGRESS: ABYSMAL</b> The government could not decide anything on the deep-sea port to avoid making India, China or the US unhappy. The Sonadia scheme may have to be shelved	<b>PROGRESS: AVERAGE</b> Progress of the massive 1320MW plant remains stuck in pre-tender preparation; authorities hopeful of a breakthrough soon	<b>PROGRESS: POOR</b> Due to poor negotiations, Petrobangla could not award contract to build the LNG terminal to import liquid gas for the last four years

SHARIEF KHAN and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

A year ago, newly re-elected Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina identified six projects which are so important that their fast implementation would speed up the nation's progress before the expiry of her term.

The six top priority projects involving \$16 billion were placed under a Fast Track Project Monitoring Committee headed by the PM herself.

*Russians trying to raise Rooppur nuke plant cost up to \$10b; Rampal power plant at snail pace*

The committee is supposed to sit every month to discuss the progress of these projects and remove all hurdles,

including bureaucratic bottlenecks, to ensure that they are implemented as fast as possible.

But in the last one year, the committee sat only thrice to discuss the projects -- Padma Bridge, deep-sea port in Sonadia, metro rail in Dhaka, a massive coal-fired power plant in Rampal, Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant and an

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1  
PAIRA, MATARBARI PROJECTS ON FAST TRACK - PAGE 2



## Qulkhwani and Doa Mahfil

The Qulkhwani and Doa Mahfil for Late Jamal Uddin Ahmed, former Deputy Prime Minister, Government of Bangladesh and former President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh will be held today, Thursday, January 8, 2015 after Asar prayers at Gulshan Central Mosque (Azad Mosque).

He breathed his last in Dhaka on January 3, 2015 (Rabiul Awal 12, 1436 Hijri).

Members of the family request you all to kindly attend the Mahfil and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

## No plan to call off blockade

### 20-party may relax programme on the last day of Biswa Ijtema

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The countrywide non-stop blockade would continue until the BNP-led 20-party alliance decides otherwise, but party insiders say that the blockade could be relaxed for several hours for the Akheri Munajat of Biswa Ijtema.

Talking to a select group of reporters, BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed yesterday said the nonstop blockade would continue until further announcement. He said this at an unspecified house in Gulshan, hours after he sneaked out of Apollo Hospital Tuesday night.

Party insiders said blockade might be relaxed for several hours on the third and final day of Biswa Ijtema of Tablig Jamaat at Tongi. The Ijtema starts tomorrow.

They said vehicles carrying people to the Ijtema might be exempted from the blockade.

The ruling Awami League yesterday urged the BNP to withdraw the blockade considering the Ijtema.

Mahabubul Alam Hanif, AL joint general secretary, made the appeal while talking to reporters at Suhrawardi Udyan in the afternoon. He, however, said every measure would be taken to make sure the Ijtema was not hampered if the 20-party alliance went ahead with its blockade.

#### KHALEDA'S CONFINEMENT

Having failed to come out of her office Monday afternoon to join a scheduled rally of 20-party alliance in front of BNP's Nayapaltan office to mark "Democracy Killing Day", BNP chief Khaleda Zia had called for the blockade from Tuesday.

The BNP chairperson remained inside her Gulshan office

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

**Payoneer**

You are just a click away in receiving your freelancing money from abroad!

This is another milestone of Bank Asia. We are inaugurating today the **Online Payment Gateway Services** with one of the world's largest Online Payment Gateway Service Providers "**Payoneer Inc. USA**".

For detail: +8801755548516  
+8801755548517  
www.bankasia-bd.com  
www.payoneer.com

**Bank Asia**